



Embassy of the United States of America
Port Louis, Mauritius
PRESS RELEASE

The “U.S. Ambassador’s Special Self Help Program” gives small community development projects the boost they need

Port Louis, October 21, 2014: Do you have a project for your community, one which will improve basic socioeconomic conditions at grassroots level, but you are short on funds? Why not submit a proposal for the “*U.S. Ambassador’s Special Self-Help Program*”? The next call for proposals for this program designed to assist small-scale development projects is now open for projects to be carried out in 2015. The deadline to submit your application is December 15, 2014 at 16:30.

The U.S. Ambassador’s Special Self-Help Program is a grassroots assistance program offered by the United States Embassy that responds to requests for financial assistance from small community-based groups. The program promotes self-reliance through community action and strives to support projects that impact entire communities, through direct or indirect benefits. The primary objective is to help people help themselves. Groups that demonstrate a commitment to their communities and involve the community are the most successful. Each year about ten beneficiaries are selected. The U.S. Embassy to Mauritius has been providing continuous funding to groups in Mauritius and Rodrigues through the Ambassador’s Special Self-Help Program for the last ten years.

Last July, Ambassador Villarosa awarded grants totaling USD 40,000 (Rs 1, 200, 000) to seven NGOs in Mauritius and one in Rodrigues. The projects focused on supporting women entrepreneurs, the physically and mentally disabled, and women and children coming from poor and vulnerable areas. The beneficiaries were: Lizie dan Lamain, Association des Parents pour la Réhabilitation des Infirmes Moteurs (APRIM), EDYCS Epilepsy Group, Association des Amis de Don Bosco, Mouvement Civique de la Baie du Tombeau, Physically Handicapped Welfare Association, Centre d’Education et de Développement pour les Enfants Mauriciens (CEDEM), and Rodrigues Entreprendre au Féminin.

The U.S. Embassy Mauritius looks forward to receiving even more Self-Help Fund proposals this year.

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Who can apply? Applications from non-government organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations or parent-teachers associations (PTA) of primary schools, secondary schools and other charitable institutions based in Mauritius, Rodrigues or Seychelles are welcome. For more details, please check the embassy's website (http://mauritius.usembassy.gov/self_help_program.html).

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